## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)		REPORT NO.		25X
SUBJECT	<ol> <li>Partisan Activity ar in Latvia</li> <li>Economic Conditions</li> </ol>		DATE DISTR.	19 May 1953	
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25X1 25X1	crossed the bridge at night were supposed to be checked, but  the police rarely stopped passersby for this check. There was no check of documents in railroad cars or in the railroad station, and there had been no mass check of documents in entire sections of the city of Lepaya for a whole year. Automobile traffic was checked by the MVD at a permanent post which was located on the highway to Grobina and Perkone.
3.	In May 1945, the Soviet authorities arrested and deported all police officials, home guardsmen, and people who were suspected of having cooperated with the German troops or occupation forces. Many of these deportees were put to work on the Stalin Canal, and, although some of them later returned to Latvia, they were deported again in later deportations. The second mass deportation took place in the summer of 1948, and was part of the first intensive collectivization of Latvian farmland. The
25X1	number of persons who were arrested and deported was apparently larger in Lithuania than in Latvia
25X1	and Grobina in Lepaya, and eventually reached the Omsk region, where they were put to work in the coal mines and on sovkhozy. These deportees apparently had better living conditions than the Latvians who were sent to
25X1 25X1	Irkutsk; they were not confined in camps and, though they could not leave their camps or the area, they were permitted to correspond with friends in Latvia. The fourth large deportation, which was smaller than previous
25X1	deportations, took place in the fall of 1951. only about thirty persons were arrested in Lepaya at this time, although there were many arrests in Lithuania in the same deportation.
25X1	individual deportations still continue; arrests are made at night, and persons who are to be moved from Latvia are kept in prisons and
25X1	moved from the area about once a month.
25X1	a new sheet iron mill at the Sarkanais Metallurgs has
<b>4.</b> 25X1	produced only inferior goods since it began production in 1951; only one out of every 100 matches produced by the Lepaya match factory would strike. As an example of the rise in production requirements,
25X1.	in 1950 the normal catch for a fishing trawler was 120 tons. The norm was raised to 150 tons in 1951, and in 1952 trawlers had to catch
25X1	200 tons of fish to meet the new norm standard. Wages of Latvian workers have been cut. A skilled worker in the Sarkanais Metallurgs, a metal plant, was paid 1,000 to 1,200 rubles a month in 1949 or 1950, but in 1951 the same worker received no more than 800 or 900 rubles a month. The average pay of an unskilled worker in the Tosmare Shipyard in Lepaya was between 600 and
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	700 rubles a month. A night watchman in a factory was paid 300 rubles. A typesetter in a printing office received about 700 rubles, and an average office worker probably was paid no more than 350 rubles a month. A lower school teacher received about 600 rubles. A chauffeur was paid about 420 rubles a month. Salaries of officers were thought to be considerably higher
25X1	than those of workers, and naval officers apparently were better paid than army officers. a lieutenant in the army had a take-
25X1	home salary of between 700 and 1,500 rubles a month, with correspondingly higher salaries for the higher ranks. widow of an army major who received a monthly pension of 2,500 rubles. Actually, however, salaries were lower than the above figures indicate, since there were various
25X1	automatic deductions for such things as trade-union dues or health insurance.  The largest single deduction was made for purchase of state bonds. Purchase of bonds was not officially obligatory, but in actual fact
25X1	all workers had to agree to purchase bonds in amounts which corresponded to their incomes. One who purchased bonds for 1,000 rubles in 1950, says that in 1951 he had to purchase 1,500 rubles' worth of bonds, and that in 1952 he was to have spent 2,000 rubles on government securities. The total purchase price of the bonds was deducted from the salaries of the workers in the course of a year.
5.	Living conditions were somewhat more difficult in 1952 than they were in 1946 and 1947, and
25X1	materials, and all foodstuffs, except bread, than it was in the first years
25X1	after the war. after the war it was possible to purchase goods from reserve stocks which were released, or from the surplus products of the independent farmers. In 1952, tobacco was available in unlimited quantities, and 25 cigarettes of the Belomar type cost 2.30 rubles. Potatoes cost 1.20 to 2.50 rubles a kilo, and tea cost about 3 rubles for 50 grams. Clothing and
25X1	shoes were scarce, and employees of stores apparently bought
25X1	up most of the available goods for their friends and relatives, though, if the buyer was willing to pay more than the stated sale price, clerks would sell
25X1	these items. To illustrate the limited quantity of goods in stores,
25X1	the Lepaya textile administration, which supplied textiles to Lepaya stores, received only nine meters of lining material in 1951.
25X1	Woolen
25X1	material of the cheapest quality cost about 140 rubles a meter. A finished suit cost about 350 rubles, but a cheap suit of this type
25X1	was made of the poorest material and workmanship, and probably would wear for only a few months. Wool which was used in workshirts of a type worn by fishermen was a standard type of dark blue material which cost about 350 rubles a
25X1	meter when it was availableit had not been possible to purchase better quality woolen goods for the last two years, but they estimate
25X1	was impossible to purchase a good, ready-made suit in Lepaya, but
25X1	in Riga a good suit could be purchased for about 5,000 rubles.  Shoes were not readily available; a pair of composition-type shoes cost about 85 rubles, and a cheaper pair of shoes with a kind of rubber sole cost about
	53 rubles. Shoes of this quality lasted about three months. A pair of simple, leather shoes with leather soles would cost at least 350 rubles. During the winter of 1951/52 it was possible to purchase Czechoslovakian leather shoes with raw rubber soles for 500 rubles a pair. High boots and rubber boots were rarely available, and fishermen needed a special certificate from the fishing kolkhoz in order to be able to purchase rubber boots.
6.	After the spring of 1952 it was more difficult to purchase foodstuffs, and meat
25X1	and lard were not available on the market. The sudden disappearance of meat aroused widespread rumors that meat supplies were being stored up as part of
25X1	Soviet preparations for war. the large meat combine in Lepaya, formerly known as Bekona Exports, delivered its entire production to
25X1	the military authorities.  a great deal of livestock died during the winter 1951/52 as a result of the lack of fodder, and
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25X1	this may have been one reason for the meat shortage. When meat was available, beef cost between seventeen and twenty-five rubles a kilo, mutton cost between fourteen and twenty rubles a kilo, and lard cost between thirty-eight and forty rubles a kilo. Butter was occasionally available, and cost between forty and forty-five rubles a kilo, though it usually was sold only in 200-gram quantities. Bread could be purchased without difficulty; most stores sold the so-called "Stalin loaf," which was made of a rather tasteless rye flour and cost 1.80 rubles a kilo. A better grade of rye bread, which resembled the bread which formerly was eaten in rural areas of Latvia, could be purchased on kolkhoz markets for six or seven rubles a kilo. White bread was rarely available, and always was inferior in quality when it could be purchased. Flour was sold only on the market, on important holidays such as New Year's, the First of May, or the October Festival. Brandy cost 22.50 rubles a half-liter, and it could be purchased in unlimited quantities from the so-called "Amerikanskiy kiosks". These kiosks were open day and night, and closed only three hours out of twenty-four. Sugar cost eleven rubles a kilo, and was somewhat easier to purchase than it had been in the past. Coffee cost about sixty-four rubles a kilo, and rarely was available. Chocolate cost about 450 rubles a kilo. Sausage rarely was available.
7.	Rubber items were scarce, but after the winter of 1951/52 it was somewhat easier to purchase synthetic rubber bicycle tires. A complete tire with inner tube cost sixty rubles, but because of the inferior quality of the rubber, a tire usually did not last more than four months when it was used regularly. Automobile tires were rarely available, and informants say that a fairly large number of automobiles belonging to factories or officials could not be used because they had no tires. Automobiles occasionally were on sale in Lepaya, and betterpaid workers sometimes would own an automobile; several of the fishermen in the Bolshevik kolkhoz owned automobiles, while several other fishermen owned motorcycles. Motorcycles cost between 6,000 and 9,000 rubles. A bicycle produced by the Riga bicycle factory, Sarkana Zvaigyne, formerly known as the Ehrenpreis Factory, cost as much as 3,600 rubles.
8.	Wrist watches were very popular, and cost at least 450 rubles. Waterproof watches were not available. A woman's good, gold watch cost between 1,500 and 2,000 rubles, but a simple pocket watch could be purchased for as little as 250 rubles.
9. 25X1 25X1 25X1	Even goods which normally were available would occasionally be in short supply. Such simple items as lined paper and envelopes hardly ever could be purchased. Informants say military personnel purchased their supplies from the Voyentorg stores. The Lepaya garrison and troops in the area of Lepaya were served by 26 Voyentorg stores which always were plentifully stocked. In April of every year there were widely-publicized sales, but these sales as fraudulent, and there was very little, if any, cut in normal prices in the months preceding the sales, prices of items were raised so that after being marked down items would cost what they normally had cost in the past. The kolkhoz markets were not affected by the April price cuts.
10.	All churches in Lepaya were still intact and were used regularly. There were very few ministers or priests, and services often were conducted by organists or bell ringers. The Pavilosta church had been converted into a club.
11. 25X1	Since the end of the war a number of Jews had settled in Lepaya, usually having come to Latvia from the interior of the Soviet Union.  Jews were given choice positions in the government, and that the average Soviet was anti-semitic for this reason.